## REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Office Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-11, and 14-24 are pending in the application, with Claims 1 and 5 being independent. Claims 1, 4, 5, 8-10, 14 and 21-24 have been amended. Support for the amendments may be found in the specification and in Figure 10. Applicant submits that no new matter has been added.

Claims 9, 10 and 21-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. Specifically, the Examiner suggests that it is not clear what is meant by "holding the outside portions" in Claims 9 and 10 and that it is not clear what is meant by the phrase "even if the printing paper is conveyed from either one of the pair of outside portions" in Claims 21-24. Without conceding the propriety of the rejections, Applicant has amended Claims 9, 10 and 21-24. Claims 9 and 10 now recite that the paper is conveyed "while holding one of the outside portions." Claims 21-24 now recite that the paper is conveyed "with either one of the pair of outside portions as a leading edge." Applicant submits that Claims 9, 10 and 21-24 are not indefinite. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, are requested.

Claims 1, 2, 4 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,726,252 (Chaikel et al.). Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8 and 17-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by GB Patent No. 1378142 (Duff).

Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8 and 15-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,652,171 (Onishi) in view of either of U.S. Patent No. 5,658,648 (Doerr et al.) or U.S. Patent No. 5,379,538 (Osborne). Claims 9-11, 14 and 21-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly obvious over Onishi, in view of Doerr et al. or Osborne, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,153,557 (Nakanishi). Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8, 17 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly obvious over Figure 13 of Applicant's disclosure in view of Doerr et al. or Osborne. Claims 9-11, 14 and 21-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as allegedly obvious over the printing process disclosed in the Background of the Invention section of Applicant's specification in view of Doerr et al. or Osborne and further in view of Nakanishi. Claims 1, 2, 4, 15, 17 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly obvious over EP 0 355 422 A2 (McLeod) in view of JP 09-263075 A (Nakaya). Claims 5, 6, 8, 16, 18 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as allegedly obvious over McLeod in view of EP 0 726 164 A2 (Skees) and JP 07-061170 A (Nakamura). Claims 9-11 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over McLeod in view of Skees and Nakamura and further in view of JP 10-006594 A (Hirano et al.) These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicant's invention as recited in independent Claim 1, as amended, is directed to a printing paper. The printing paper includes a center portion having a rectangular form having two pairs of opposite sides connected by four corners, and a pair of outside portions connected to the center portion at one pair of the two pairs of opposite sides of the center portion. The outside portions are edge portions of the printing paper and are removed from the center portion after an image is formed on the center portion. The other pair of the two pairs of

opposite sides of the center portion are not connected to any other printing paper. The center portion has a curved edge smoothly connecting adjacent sides of the center portion at four corners, and the outside portions are connected to the center portion via a straight line portion located between the curved edges and are removed from the center portion at the straight line portion. The outside portions are connected only to one center portion.

Applicant's invention as recited in independent Claim 5, as amended, is directed to a label printing paper including an image receiving layer releasably laminated on a supporting layer. The label paper has a center portion having a rectangular form having two pairs of opposite sides connected by four corners and a pair of outside portions connected to the center portion at one pair of the two pairs of opposite sides of the center portion. The outside portions are edge portions of the printing paper and are removed from the center portion after an image is formed on the center portion. The other pair of the two pairs of opposite sides of the center portion are not connected to any other label printing paper. The center portion has a curved edge smoothly connecting adjacent sides of the center portion at four corners, and the outside portions are connected to the center portion via a straight line portion located between the curved edges and are removed from the center portion at the straight line portion. The outside portions are connected only to one center portion.

Applicant submits that none of the cited art teaches or suggests important features of Applicant's presently claimed invention.

Chaikel et al. is directed to a computer-controlled identifier tag production system. The system uses perforated plastic sheets including a plurality of transparent identifier tags. The

sheets are designed to be fed through a conventional ink jet or laser printer to print one or more of the tags. Chaikel et al., however, is not read to teach or suggest that the center portion of the tag has a curved edge smoothly connecting adjacent sides of the center portion at four corners, and the outside portions are connected to the center portion via a straight line portion located between the curved edges and are removed from the center portion at the straight line portion. Additionally, Chaikel et al. is not read to teach or suggest that the outside portions are connected to only one center portion or that the other pair of the two pairs of opposite sides of the center portion are not connected to any other paper. The Examiner points to Figure 4 of Chaikel et al. in support of the suggestion that Chaikel et al. anticipates Applicant's invention. Applicant submits, however, that the tag shown in Figure 4 has been detached from a sheet containing a plurality of tags and that once removed, since Chaikel et al. does not teach or suggest further printing on the tag, that the tag is not a printing sheet.

Duff is directed to a label strip. The label strip disclosed in Duff has a plurality of center portions, and each center portion is connected to at least one other center portion. Duff, however, is not read to teach or suggest, at least, outside portions that are edge portions of the printing paper and are removed from the center portion after an image is formed on the center portion. Additionally, Duff is not read to teach or suggest that the outside portions are connected to only one center portion.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

Onishi is directed to a sheet-like printing medium with easy-separating means which enables one to easily separate the printing medium portions. The easy-separating means disclosed in Onishi run along the entire length of the sheet-like printing medium. Also, as recognized by the Examiner, Onishi does not teach or suggest a curved edge. To remedy this deficiency, the examiner cited to Doerr et al. and Osborne for teaching labels with rounded corners.

Without conceding the propriety of the combination, Applicant submits that the proposed combination of Onishi with either Doerr et al. or Osborne would not teach or suggest Applicant's presently claimed invention. Specifically, while assuming, arguendo, that combining the references in the manner suggested by the Examiner might lead to a printing paper having rounded corners, there is no teaching or motivation in any of the references to form a printing sheet where the center portion has a curved edge smoothly connecting adjacent sides of the center portion at four corners, and the outside portions are connected to the center portion via a straight line portion located between the curved edges and are removed from the center portion at the straight line portion. That is, if the proposed combination ultimately resulted in a sheet having curved edges, then some of the perforations in the modified sheet of Onishi would necessarily be curved because those perforations completely surround the center portion. In such a scenario, there is no suggestion that the outside portions could be connected to the center portion via a straight line portion located between the curved edges and could be removed from the center portion at the straight line portion.

Nakanishi was cited for its teaching of print head and conveyer rollers and does not remedy the above-noted deficiencies of Onishi, Doerr et al. and Osborne.

Figure 13 of Applicant's disclosure discloses a paper with a center portion having a rectangular form and two pairs of opposite sides connected by four corners and a pair of outside portions connected to the center portion at one of the two pairs of opposite sides of the center portion. As with Onishi, the outside portions are connected to the center portion via straight line portions that extend across the entire length of the sheet. Thus, as with Onishi, Applicant submits that Figure 13 does not teach or suggest that the center portion has a curved edge smoothly connecting adjacent sides of the center portion at four corners, and the outside portions are connected to the center portion via a straight line portion located between the curved edges and are removed from the center portion at the straight line portion.

The Examiner cited to Doerr et al. and Osborne for teachings rounded corners. However, for the reasons noted above with respect to the proposed combination of Onishi with either of Doerr et al. or Osborne, Applicant submits that the proposed combination of Figure 13 with either of Doerr et al. or Osborne does not teach or suggest Applicant's claimed invention.

Additionally, the Examiner suggested that the printing process disclosed in the Background of the Invention section of Applicant's specification in combination Doerr et al. or Osborne and further in view of Nakanishi would render obvious Applicant's presently claimed invention. Applicant respectfully disagrees. Applicant submits that the printing process disclosed in the Background to the Invention section of Applicant's disclosure does not teach or suggest at least the paper claimed in independent Claims 1 and 5. Thus, Applicant submits that

the background material does not teach or suggest that the center portion of the paper has a curved edge smoothly connecting adjacent sides of the center portion at four corners, and the outside portions are connected to the center portion via a straight line portion located between the curved edges and are removed from the center portion at the straight line portion. Neither Doerr et al. nor Osborne, which were cited for teaching rounded corners, are understood remedy this deficiency. Nakanishi, which was cited for its teaching of a print head and conveyer rollers also does not remedy the above-noted deficiency of the print process disclosed in the Background of the Invention section of Applicant's disclosure.

Therefore, Applicant submits that the proposed combination of Figure 13 with Doerr et al. or Osborne and the proposed combination of the printing process disclosed in the Background of the Invention section of Applicant's disclosure with Nakanishi and either of Doerr et al. or Osborne do not teach or suggest important features of Applicant's invention.

McLeod is directed to a print medium sheet having a main portion and trailing and leading end portions. The leading and trailing end portions are attached to the center section of the sheet by perforations that extend across the entire length of the sheet. McLeod, however, does not teach or suggest curved edges, nor does it teach or suggest a center portion that has a curved edge smoothly connecting adjacent sides of the center portion at four corners, and the outside portions are connected to the center portion via a straight line portion located between the curved edges and are removed from the center portion at the straight line portion.

Nakaya and Skees were cited for teaching rounded corners. Nakamura was cited for teaching the use of an adhesive. Hirano et al. was cited for teaching feeding a label paper

through a printer. None of these secondary references, however, are understood to teach or suggest a center portion that has a curved edge smoothly connecting adjacent sides of the center portion at four corners, and the outside portions are connected to the center portion via a straight line portion located between the curved edges and are removed from the center portion at the straight line portion.

Thus, for reasons similar to those given above for the proposed combination of Onishi with either of Doerr et al. or Osborne, Applicant submits that the proposed combinations of McLeod with Nakaya, McLeod with Skees and Nakamura, and McLeod with Skees, Nakmura and Hirano et al., even if proper, do not teach or suggest important features of Applicant's invention.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the present invention is patentably defined by independent Claims 1 and 10. Dependent Claims 2-9 and 11-24 are also allowable, in their own right, for defining features of the present invention in addition to those recited in independent claims 1 and 10. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is requested.

Applicant submits that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark A. Williamson
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 33,628

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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